

# Legislators Are Told Personal Tax Is Farcical

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## BIG ARMIES OF ALLIES MENACE BULGARIA; FRENCH TROOPS HAVE LANDED IN GREECE

### TAX SYSTEM IS ALL WRONG, PERSONAL LEVY FARFICAL, SAYS HEAD OF STATE BOARD

President Saxe Points Out Evils at Hearing of Legislative Committee.

FICTITIOUS VALUES SET.

Competent Assessors Lacking—State Watch on Local Officials Suggested.

Before the Mills Legislative Committee on Taxation to-day Marjorie Saxe, President of the State Tax Commission, denounced the present form of personal property tax as farfical, and said that the whole system of taxation throughout the State was lax and inefficient.

Asked for suggested remedies, President Saxe gave the following:

Adoption of the tax article in the new Constitution.

County supervisors of assessments appointed locally by Boards of Supervisors, but directly responsible and under control of the State Tax Commission. City and county boards of review and assessment.

Classified personal property taxes, license and occupation taxes and improved corporation taxes.

Income taxation when the public is ready for it, but not at present.

REAL ESTATE MEN FLOCK TO HEARING.

Members of the committee are Senators Ogden L. Mills, Chairman; John J. Boylan and Archie D. Sanders; Assemblymen Frank B. Thorne, H. E. Macchold, Edward A. Everett, William Gillen and Charles D. Donohue. All save Thorne were present.

Four tax lawyers of prominence acted as counsel to the committee assisted by various experts. Bronson Winthrop, law partner of Elihu Root and Henry L. Stimson, is chief counsel with Walter Lindner, Henry M. Powell and Robert C. Cummins as associates. Prof. Chandler of the University of Arizona, acted as expert advisor to the committee.

Representatives of real estate associations, organizations of tax payers and a few heavily taxed citizens appeared at the session. Two women with grievances and tax notices in hand waited for Mayor Mitchell to appear in the witness chair but

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

### WOMEN LEAP FROM AUTO, ARE CRUSHED TO DEATH

Driver Unable to Control Car Runs Over Three—Two Others Dangerously Injured.

ALTOONA, Pa., Oct. 4.—Three women were killed and two others seriously injured in a motor car accident at Roaring Springs near here, last night. The car, which was driven by William F. Eberle of this city, careened on some loose earth along the State highway and the women, becoming frightened, jumped, landing against a fence.

Eberle was unable to control the machine and crashed into his companions. Miss Susan Busman, fifty-nine years old; Miss Sophia Busman, and Miss Elsie Frischmuth, both forty-five years old, were killed and two sisters of Eberle were dangerously hurt.

### FAST BATTLE CRUISERS FOR OUR NAVY NOW

Wilson and Daniels Decide to Have That Type of Ship New Feature of Fighting Fleet.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4.—President Wilson, Secretary Daniels and Chairman Padgett of the House Naval Committee decided to-day at a conference at the White House that the naval problem for the coming session of Congress shall include the addition of fast battle cruisers to the American fleet. The navy now has none.

Secretary Daniels said that the report made to him by Naval Constructor McRide, who returned from England last week after investigating naval lessons of the war, had convinced him that fast warships of powerful types were absolutely essential to a well-balanced navy.

He indicated his opinion that the submarines will be recognized by important additions.

President Wilson will confer on Wednesday with the Advisory Board headed by Thomas A. Edison. Mr. Edison now is in Washington discussing plans with Secretary Daniels.

### CARELESS CLERK PUT HIM IN CARNEGIE CLASS

Isaac Weinstein Should Be Assessed on \$500,000 Instead of \$5,000,000.

Isaac H. Weinstein of No. 374 West End Avenue is down on the tax books as possessing \$5,000,000 worth of personal property. His only associates in this exclusive class are Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller Jr.

"When I got \$5,000,000 I'll let you have \$4,000,000 and keep the remaining million for myself," declared Mr. Weinstein when he heard of his assessment.

Now it develops that some clerk in the Tax Department got a little careless with harmless looking ciphers and added one more than he should to the Weinstein valuation, which should have been \$500,000. This year Mr. Weinstein is listed at \$5,000,000.

Although Mr. Weinstein is relegated from the Carnegie-Rockefeller class to that of the very numerous "half-millionaires," nevertheless his \$5,000,000 valuation will stand until he visits the Tax Department and swears it down.

### AMERICAN RED CROSS WORKERS IN RUSSIA

Physicians and Nurses There to Care for German and Austrian Prisoners.

PETROGRAD, Oct. 4 (via London).—Nine physicians and thirty-eight nurses, comprising the major part of four American Red Cross units, which have been serving in Germany and Austria for the last ten months, arrived in Petrograd to-day in charge of Dr. Carey A. Snoddy of Knoxville, Tenn. They will care for German and Austrian civil and military prisoners in Russia.

The Americans are acting under the auspices of the American Red Cross, although the German Government is defraying their expenses. Headquarters will be established at Moscow and the physicians and nurses will be distributed among the various camps throughout the empire.

### THEFT A MYSTERY, BUT PAYS \$42,000 FOR LOSS OF GEMS

Insurance Firm Decides to Settle With Mrs. McMillan, Widow of Senator.

CALLED "INSIDE JOB."

Safe Cleaned Out While Mistress Slept at Her Country Home.

The firm of Samuels, Cornwall & Stevens of No. 51 William Street will pay to the order of Mrs. James McMillan, widow of the Senator from Michigan, the sum of \$42,000 insurance money, but the mystery of the McMillan robbery will not be cleared.

George Stevens of the insurance firm said to-day: "We shall pay the insurance right away. The delay has been the fault of the assured. They wanted the jewels back and did not want the money if the jewels could be found. We have had two firms of detectives work on the case and the sum total of their work is that it was an inside job." There is no prospect of any arrest in the case and nothing remains for us but to pay the insurance.

Mrs. McMillan, who is an aged woman, is expected to leave her granddaughter, Mrs. Preston Gibson, a fortune of more than \$30,000,000 when she dies. The Senator's widow is inordinately fond of jewelry, and in addition to the pieces lost, which were insured, there were fifteen pieces valued at \$35,000. She wore jewelry to bed at night, and on the night of the robbery had on a pair of pearl earrings valued at \$4,000 and two diamond and pearl finger rings which cost her \$1,500 more.

The robbery occurred on the night of Aug. 7 last at the McMillan summer home at Manchester, Mass. The McMillans live at Washington, D. C.

A partial list of the jewels is as follows: Pearl necklace, valued at \$12,000; diamond watch chain, \$5,000; two diamond solitaire rings, \$4,000; sapphire and diamond ring, \$4,000; diamond and platinum bar pin, \$4,000; diamond brooch, \$4,000; diamond lavalliere, \$4,000; diamond dinner ring, \$2,500; diamond studded watch, \$2,500.

Mrs. Preston Gibson's room adjoined that of her grandmother. She also retired early that night. In the morning they were awakened by Miss Beachy, who told them she had arisen early and had decided to clean her mistress's jewels. She had found the safe empty. Even two insurance policies of Mrs. Gibson's, which had been placed there, were gone.

### DECLARE HESPERIAN WAS SUNK BY MINE

Naval Experts Practically Certain Disaster Was Not Caused by Torpedo.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4.—Naval officers assigned to examine pieces of metal said to have been found aboard the Allan liner Hesperian before she sank off the Irish coast, Sept. 4, are virtually convinced that the vessel was wrecked by a mine. Their findings will be submitted to Secretary Daniels this week.

The Captain of the Hesperian submitted the metal fragments which he contended were pieces of a torpedo. Some of them were given to the naval attaché at the American Embassy at London and forwarded to the State Department.

### ONE OF VICTIMS OF ROBBERY AT THE HOME OF MRS. McMILLAN



### NINE ARE HURT AS 2 CARS CRASH ON BROOKLYN LINE

Motorman Among Chief Sufferers as Front of Car Is Crushed In.

Nine persons were injured when a Fulton Street car bound for East New York rammed a Hamburg Avenue car at Fulton Street and Rockaway Avenue, Brooklyn, at a little after noon to-day. The front platform of the Fulton Street car was crumpled up and all the glass in both cars were broken.

John McCormick, motorman of the Fulton Street car, was pinned against the forward door and badly crushed. He was taken to Henshaw Hospital by Ambulance Surgeons Aronson and Stahl.

Policeman Cox of the Grand Avenue Station sent in a general ambulance call which brought the ambulances from Bushwick and St. Mary's Hospitals. The surgeons found the injured laid out on the floor of the Ocean Hill drug store, where they had been placed after being pulled out of the wreckage by the reserves of the Ralph and Liberty Avenue stations.

The injured besides the motorman were Mrs. John Skelmore, her daughter Louise and her friends, Mrs. Frederick Lorey and Miss Lizzie Lorey, all of Rockaway Avenue and Avenue K. Albert Thomas of No. 383 Marion Street; Rose Astari of No. 1152 Broadway; Mrs. Anthony Yashnow of No. 1152 Broadway; Lizzie Salby of No. 79 Leggett Avenue, and Mary Connors of No. 1152 Leggett Avenue.

Both of Thomas's arms were broken. The others received cuts and bruises and were all suffering from shock.

Exonerated of Auto Theft Charge Samuel Levin, twenty-one years old, a clerk of No. 2187 Seventh Avenue, and Felix Oriewitz, nineteen years old, a musician of No. 2142 Seventh Avenue, were discharged by Magistrate Deuel in the Harlem Police Court to-day. They were arrested last Thursday on suspicion of stealing an automobile from a garage in East One Hundred and Eighth Street.

The World Travel Bureau, Arcade, Fulton World, Building, 300 Park Row, N. Y. City, Ticket Office for all Coastwise, Central and South American steamship lines. Travelers' checks and money orders for sale. Taxicabs and automobiles for hire. Check books for sale. Agents for all lines. Telephone 4000. Advt.

### GAINS BY FRENCH ADMITTED BY THE GERMAN WAR OFFICE; AIRSHIPS BOMBARD METZ

Berlin Again Claims to Have Defeated the British—Paris War Office Reports Success in the Artois and Champagne.

OFFICIAL GERMAN REPORT. BERLIN (via London, Oct. 4).—Following is the text of the report issued to-day by the War Office:

"North of Loos our attack continues to make progress. North of Givenchy the French obtained a firm foothold in a trench on a hill, but south of Givenchy we repulsed French attacks. Northeast of Neuville our counter-attack recaptured forty yards of trenches.

"Northwest of Ville-sur-Tourbe and northwest of Massiges (eastern Champagne region) French attacks broke down under our concerted fire.

"German aviators bombarded Chalons, where the French rear guard was assembling, with visible results.

"Yesterday morning five enemy monitors bombarded Zebruggue without result. Three Belgian civilians were victims of this bombardment."

OFFICIAL FRENCH REPORT.

PARIS, Oct. 4.—Following is the text of the French official report: "We have continued to make progress to the north of Arras in the Forest of Givenchy and at Hill No. 119. Here we occupied the crossroads of five highways.

"There has been almost continuous fighting with hand grenades and bombs, accompanied by artillery fighting from each side, in the vicinity of Quennevillers and of Nouvron.

"In the Champagne district there has been artillery fighting in the vicinity of the Navarin Farm.

"Yesterday evening two counter attacks on the part of the enemy to the north of Mesnil were repulsed. The night passed quietly on the remainder of the front.

"One of our air squadrons has thrown down on the Sablon Railroad Station at Metz no fewer than forty shells of heavy calibre. Other French aviators have continued the bombardments from the air of the railroad lines, junction points and railroad stations behind the German front."

### \$5,000 VANISHES WITH TICKET SELLER AT GRAND CENTRAL

Suspicious Robbery Started Inquiry That Showed a Shortage in Accounts.

Detectives are to-day searching for a ticket seller of the New York Central Office at the Grand Central Terminal, who disappeared following a robbery in the ticket offices early Friday morning. Close to \$5,000 was taken in the robbery.

The only statement railroad officials would make concerning the affair came from H. E. Miller, assistant to Vice President Davis.

"We do not want the name of the man disclosed, because we expect his arrest in a very short time and have been requested by those in charge of the search for him not to make public his identity," he said.

The first of the thefts occurred at the end of August, when \$500 in small bills mysteriously disappeared from the commutation ticket office. Shortly after this the man who has now disappeared reported that his cash drawer had been forced open and \$400 taken.

When the office was opened on Friday morning a kit of burglar's tools was found on the office floor, deposit boxes had been rifled and cash drawers broken open. In the compartment where the Pullman tickets were sold, records had been destroyed, and it was in this office the clerk who failed to appear that morning had worked.

Railroad detectives hurried to the man's home and learned that he returned there early Friday morning and had packed a travelling bag and left the house hurriedly.

WILSON GOING TO GAME.

Wires for Tickets for Second of World's Series at Philadelphia.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4.—President Wilson to-day wired for seats at the second game of the World's Series between the Philadelphia and Boston teams in Philadelphia next Saturday.

Secretary Tumulty and Dr. Cary T. Grayson will accompany the President and possibly a "fan" or two from among the Cabinet members.

New England to Take \$75,000,000 of the War Loan.

BOSTON, Oct. 4.—New England's share in the Anglo-French loan will amount to \$75,000,000, of which \$25,000,000 will come from Boston. It was stated in banking circles here to-day.

### ALLIES READY TO STRIKE HARD BLOW AT BULGARIA AND HEAD OFF AID TO TURKS

Time Limit Given by Petrograd to Government at Sofia Expires, and Russian Envoy Is Believed to Have Already Started Back Home.

MACKENSEN WITH 250,000 SAID TO BE NEAR SERBIA

ATHENS (via Paris), Oct. 4.—All doubt as to the entrance of Greece in the war on the side of the entente allies has now been disposed of. The official organ of the Government says that the landing of French troops at Salonica is for the purpose of assisting Greece.

This organ says that if for the present the Government considers the assistance of the allies as premature, it is none the less to aid and support Greece that the allies are at Salonica. France and England enter the Balkans as traditional friends of Greece, and not otherwise.

The Greek Government has seized the Macedonia railroads, of which two are Austrian and one French.

By landing troops in Salonica the French are in a position to head off the Germans if they should overrun Serbia and attempt to relieve the Turks by sweeping through Bulgaria. The Allies are supposed to have a great army on the island of Lemnos within quick striking distance, and Italy is believed to have a tremendous force at Brindisi.

SALONICA, Oct. 4.—Two powerful Russian squadrons have appeared off the Bulgarian Black Sea port of Varna, according to despatches received here to-day.

ROME, Oct. 3, via Paris, Oct. 4.—A telegram from Athens to the Tribuna says that Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton, British commander at the Dardanelles, has been at Salonica to inspect arrangements made for the landing of troops.

PETROGRAD (via London), Oct. 4.—Unless Bulgaria has conceded fully the demands of Russia concerning the breaking off of relations with the central powers by 2 o'clock this afternoon the Russian Minister at Sofia and his staff will depart.

As Russia draws a distinction between the Bulgarian Government and the Bulgarian people, no measures will be adopted against Bulgarian subjects in Russia.

[The time limit from Russia expired at 9 o'clock A. M., New York time.]

Even M. Madjarov, Bulgarian Minister to Russia, will not be expelled. His passport will not be given to him and he will be permitted to remain undisturbed, although no official relations will be maintained with him as the representative of King Ferdinand.

The Foreign Office explains that the fact that Russia alone sent an ultimatum to Bulgaria was due to voluntary recognition on the part of her allies of this nation's predominance in the Balkans and of her moral claim upon the gratitude of the Balkan peoples.

Whether England, France and Italy will withdraw their representatives at Sofia in case Russia takes this action has not yet been decided. Russia felt compelled to make this move in view of the failure of all efforts to bring pressure through other means on King Ferdinand. It is the view of the Russian Government that the recall of its Minister would convince the Bulgarian people that King Ferdinand's policy is dangerous.

### AIR RAIDER SHOT DOWN ON BELGIAN COAST

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 4.—The Telegram announces that five aeroplanes of the allies yesterday bombarded Zebruggue, on the Belgian coast. Some of the bombs which were dropped weighed seventy-five pounds.

The aeroplanes were attacked by anti-aircraft guns, which brought down one machine. Another was compelled by a defective motor to land near Nieuwvliet, on Dutch territory, and a British officer was interned.

MACKENSEN REPORTED AT THE SERBIAN LINE WITH 250,000 MEN. BUCHAREST, Oct. 4.—Field Marshal von Mackensen, with 250,000 troops withdrawn from the Russian front, has arrived at the Serbian